

Hayle Academy

20 March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Thank you for your patience regarding further details about schools' closures. We have now received additional guidance from the Government and I am writing to confirm arrangements during the period of school closure from Monday 23rd March. I would like to start by confirming that due to continued high levels of staff absence at this time, Hayle Academy will be open to children in Year 7 only tomorrow, Friday 20th March and closed to all other year groups. We had initially planned to prioritise Year 11 students in preparation for their exams. At this time, and given that students will not be taking exams in the summer, we do not have sufficient staff available to be able to remain open to more than one year group. We have therefore prioritised our youngest students, to support families who need to work and where supervision is most difficult. To be clear, and with regret, we can only accommodate students in Year 7 in school tomorrow and all other year groups will need to use their online learning as provided by their teachers.

In line with the Government's announcements, and in the interest of our national health, Hayle Academy will be closing to children in all year groups from the end of the school day on Friday 20th March. Children of key workers and our most vulnerable students only, will be able to attend school throughout the school closure period. In order to plan suitable provision Truro and Penwith Academy Trust is closing all its schools, to all children, on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th March. I know this may be difficult for some families, however it is essential at this time to ensure we can provide for students appropriately in the longer term. Provision for vulnerable children and for the children of key workers will therefore be available from Wednesday 25th March and the school site will be open from 8.15am until 5.30pm to support key workers who need to work longer hours.

We understand that this provision for key workers will be for single parents/ carers who are key workers, or for families where both parents/carers are key workers. No further details about the definition of key workers are currently available but we expect the list to include NHS staff, police and emergency services, staff working in social care and care homes, school staff and those in essential retail delivery and manufacturing. The list is due to be provided by the Government shortly.

Please ensure that if you are expecting to be identified as a key worker and will need your child to attend school, that you have registered this with us by emailing enquiries@hayleacademy.net. It is essential that we receive this information as soon as possible and by Friday midday at the latest. We are also making initial plans about provision for key worker children over the Easter holiday and again, confirmation of whether you need this provision for your child would be very helpful.

Children who are in care will be required to attend school on a compulsory basis, and the school will contact all our carers individually to discuss your child's needs. We will also contact parents whose children have an Educational Health Care Plan to ensure we know how we need to support your child's education during the period of school closure.

For all other children, the school will, with regret, be closed and we will continue to provide online learning resources via Show My Homework. If you experience any difficulties in accessing learning for your child, please email melissa.lock@hayleacademy.net for advice and support. Our form tutors will be in regular contact with their tutees to monitor their welfare while we are closed. We anticipate that children may feel more isolated and, in addition to academic learning, we will provide resources that support emotional well-being as well. Please ensure that children are well supported and supervised when they are online. We do not recommend the use of open learning communities where parents cannot verify who the adults are who are communicating with children. If parents have any concerns linked to online behaviours, please contact Mrs Sally Trustcott our safeguarding lead for advice on sally.truscott@hayleacademy.net.

Further information about arrangements for Year 11 students to be awarded with their qualifications has been promised to schools tomorrow. I will contact you again when we have more details. In the meantime, Year 11 students should continue to work online to ensure they are up to date with their courses and lessons.

We are also continuing to liaise with our catering company to make arrangements for meals for children eligible for free school meals. I will provide more information about arrangements next week.

I would like to finish by using this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff team at Hayle Academy as well as our parents for their support and partnership at a very challenging time for our families, community and country. Our staff team will continue to be on site throughout the school closure period to provide advice and support about students' learning and care. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of our staff team if you have questions or need advice. Our priorities remain the education and welfare of our students.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Jan Woodhouse, Executive Headteacher

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